



The Cleveland Museum of Art

FOR RELEASE:
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CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS ONE-TIME-ONLY EXHIBITION OF PHARAONIC ART FROM THE LOUVRE

(Cleveland, OH) -- Now at the Cleveland Museum of Art, **Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the Louvre** brings viewers face-to-face with thirty royal portraits in stone from one of the world's greatest collections of Egyptian art, that of the Musée du Louvre, Paris. This unprecedented exhibition is on view *only* at the Cleveland Museum of Art through April 14, 1996, and is sponsored by Society Bank/KeyCorp.

Every major period of Egyptian history--over 3,000 years--is represented in this exhibition by at least one superb statue, relief, or stele. Ranging in size from four-inch statuettes to over-life-size portraits, they portray many of Egypt's most famous rulers: Amenhotep III, Tutankhamen (King Tut), Ramesses II (the Great), and Cleopatra. Of these thirty works, only four have ever been seen in the United States, and this exhibition is the only occasion for which the beautiful *Pair Statuette of Akhenaten and Nefertiti* has been lent since the Louvre acquired it in 1938.

Eight works from Cleveland's own Egyptian collection fill important places in the essentially chronological arrangement of the exhibition, including portraits of Amenemhat III and Amenhotep III exhibited alongside the Louvre's statues.

A symposium, family programs, and other events are planned including a presentation by renowned Egyptologist Kent R. Weeks, who discovered the tomb of the sons of Ramesses II in 1995.

Timed tickets for admission to **Pharaohs** are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students 12+ with ID, seniors 60+, and groups of 15 or more. A recorded tour is included in these admission prices. Children 11 and under free. Museum members receive free timed tickets, and pay \$1 for the recorded tour. Tickets are on sale at the CMA box office or through Advantix at 216/241-6000 or 1-800-766-6048. Exhibition hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11-5:45; Wednesday, 11-9:45; Saturday, 9-4:45; and Sunday, 1-5:45. The permanent collection of the museum opens at 10 a.m. on weekdays and is always free to the public. All galleries are closed on Mondays.

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Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the Louvre was organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art in collaboration with the department of Egyptian antiquities, Musée du Louvre, Paris. The exhibition is sponsored by Society Bank/KeyCorp with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support from WDOK 102.1 FM and AM 850 WRMR, and the Avenue at Tower City Center.

Press Release



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FACT SHEET

Exhibition: **Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian Art from the Louvre**

Dates: February 11, 1996 - April 14, 1996

Significance: Internationally, this exhibition is the first occasion for which many of the Louvre's famous Egyptian works have traveled to the United States--and the only time the *Pair Statuette of Akhenaten and Nefertiti* has been lent since its acquisition in 1938. Locally, **Pharaohs** begins a cycle of four exhibitions organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art to honor the citizens and City of Cleveland on the city's 200th anniversary in 1996. The dismantling of the Louvre's Egyptian galleries for renovation provides the unique opportunity to organize **Pharaohs**.

Venue: The Cleveland Museum of Art is the only venue--a vivid testament to the place of Cleveland and its museum in the international art world.

Lender: Musée du Louvre, Paris--one of the world's oldest, largest, and most renowned museums. The Louvre's Egyptian collection, established in the 1820s, is remarkable for its size (50,000 objects) and historical importance, as well as for the quality of its holdings.

Contents: For this rare event in the art world, thirty exceptional works of Egyptian art from the Louvre are traveling to the United States. All major periods in 3,000 years of Egyptian history are represented in the show, which examines royal images in statues, reliefs, and steles for insights into traditions and innovations in Egyptian art. The works, all chosen for their aesthetic quality, range in size from five-inch statuettes to life-size portraits. World-famous masterpieces include the celebrated Predynastic *Bull Palette*, showing the king in the form of a bull trampling an enemy, and the magnificent Fourth Dynasty red quartzite *Head of Djedefra* (the son of Cheops), from a sphinx. The renowned tradition of portrait sculpture in the Middle Kingdom period is embodied to perfection in the life-size Twelfth Dynasty granodiorite *Seated Statue of Sesostri III*. The great New Kingdom pharaohs Amenhotep III, Akhenaten (with and without Queen Nefertiti), Tutankhamen, and Ramesses II are each represented in sculpture in the round and in painted relief. The latest work of art in the exhibition is a marble *Portrait of a Roman Emperor, Probably Nero*, in full pharaonic regalia.

Of the thirty works coming from Paris, only four have ever been seen in the States. Ten related works from the Cleveland museum's own choice collection will be exhibited with the Louvre loans.

- Background:** Collaboration between the Cleveland museum and the museums of France on major international loan exhibitions goes back a long time--at least twenty years to **The European Vision of America** (Washington, Cleveland, and Paris, 1976-77), followed by **Chardin 1699-1779** (Paris, Cleveland, and Boston, 1979). Celebration of the Cleveland museum's 75th Anniversary witnessed **Picasso and Things: The Still Lives of Picasso** (Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Paris, 1992) and **Egypt's Dazzling Sun: Amenhotep III and His World** (Cleveland, Fort Worth, and Paris, 1992-93), which broke all attendance records at Cleveland before traveling to Paris.
- Catalogue:** A fully illustrated catalogue is being prepared by Lawrence M. Berman, Cleveland's assistant curator of ancient art and curator of the exhibition, and Bernadette Letellier, curator in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities of the Louvre.
- Funding:** This exhibition is sponsored by Society Bank/KeyCorp. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.
- Programs:** Gallery talks, lectures, family programs, and other events are planned. A recorded tour, narrated by museum director Robert P. Bergman, will be available. Guided school tours are available by reservation by calling 216/421-7340, ext. 462.
- Ticketing:** Details forthcoming about single and group ticket sales.
- Additional Bicentennial Exhibitions:**
- Transformations in Cleveland Art**
May 19, 1996 - July 21, 1996
 - Urban Evidence: Contemporary Artists Reveal Cleveland**
August 25, 1996 - October 27, 1996
 - Legacy of Light: Master Photographs from the Cleveland Museum of Art**
November 24, 1996 - February 2, 1997
- Contact:** News media should contact Denise Horstman, acting manager, Communications & Marketing, for additional information, photographs, slides, or transparencies. Phone 216/421-7340, ext. 262; fax 216/231-6565.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives partial funding from the Ohio Arts Council, a state agency created to foster and encourage the development of the arts and to preserve Ohio's cultural heritage. Funding from the Ohio Arts Council is an investment of state tax dollars that promotes economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.